

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 23-28 are amended. Claims 39-44 are withdrawn. Claims 45-49 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled.)

Claim 23. (Currently amended.) A ~~An isolated~~ polypeptide having asparaginase activity and having an amino acid sequence which is at least ~~90~~95% identical with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, residues 27-378 of SEQ ID NO:2, residues 30-378 of SEQ ID NO:2, residues 75-378 of SEQ ID NO:2 or residues 80-378 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 24. (Currently amended.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is ~~at least 90% identical with~~comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 25. (Currently amended.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is ~~at least 90% identical with~~comprises residues 27-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 26. (Currently amended.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is ~~at least 90% identical with~~comprises residues 30-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 27. (Currently amended.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is ~~at least 90% identical with~~comprises residues 75-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 28. (Currently amended.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is ~~at least 90% identical with~~comprises residues 80-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical with SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical with residues 27-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical with residues 30-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical with residues 75-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical with residues 80-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 98% identical with SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 98% identical with residues 27-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 98% identical with residues 30-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 98% identical with residues 75-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide is at least 98% identical with residues 80-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 39. (Withdrawn.) A method of preparing a heat-treated product, comprising the sequential steps of:

- a) providing a raw material which comprises carbohydrate, protein and water
- b) treating the raw material with a polypeptide according to claim 23, and
- c) heat treating to reach a final water content below 35 % by weight.

Claim 40. (Withdrawn.) The method of claim 39 which further comprises treating the raw material with an oxidoreductase capable of reacting with a reducing sugar as a substrate.

Claim 41. (Withdrawn.) The method of claim 40 wherein the oxidoreductase capable of reacting with a reducing sugar as a substrate is a glucose oxidase; a pyranose oxidase; a hexose oxidase; a galactose oxidase; or a carbohydrate oxidase which has a higher activity on maltose than on glucose.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn.) The method of claim 39 wherein the raw material is in the form of a dough and the enzyme treatment comprises mixing the enzyme into the dough.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn.) The method of claim 39 wherein the raw material comprises intact vegetable pieces and the enzyme treatment comprises immersing the vegetable pieces in an aqueous solution of the enzyme.

Claim 44. (Withdrawn.) The method of claim 39 wherein the raw material comprises a potato product.

Claim 45. (New.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 46. (New.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide consists of residues 27-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 47. (New.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide consists of residues 30-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 48. (New.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide consists of residues 75-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 49. (New.) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide consists of residues 80-378 of SEQ ID NO: 2.